



MEAP

Coordinator Update

Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability – Michigan Educational Assessment Program – Vol. 2, No. 9 – March 14, 2005

Call for Michigan Educators to Serve on MEAP Item Development Teams (IDT)

Starting this summer, the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) will be switching to Michigan educator-developed assessments for MEAP. This means that we need to recruit educators with classroom experience in the areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. Item writers will be writing test items after receiving extensive training and feedback from assessment experts. The state will offer a modest compensation for item writers who join the Item Development Teams. Participants on each subject area Item Development Team (IDT) should plan to devote about 12 days (including two 3-day meetings currently planned for June and August) to this effort.

A cover letter with background information, IDT Role Description, and Application form for each content area is available on the MEAP web page under *Information for Educators* at www.michigan.gov/meap.

Interested educators are asked to complete the application forms and develop three sample assessment items for submission to the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability by Friday, April 29, 2005.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Brown at 517-335-0568 or BrownBill@michigan.gov.

Michigan Merit Examination (MME) Information Available Online

Recently passed legislation mandates that by the 2006-2007 school year the MEAP high school tests be replaced with a new system of high school assessments called the Michigan Merit Examination. Information about the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) will be posted on the Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability (OEAA) web page at www.michigan.gov/oeaa. Currently, the page contains the presentations from the 2005 Michigan School Testing Conference by Dr. Edward Roeber, ACT and the College Board regarding MME and the legislation mandating the MME. As we move forward with the move from the MEAP high school tests to the MME and more information becomes available, it will be posted to the OEAA web page.

Michigan Merit Awards from the 7th and 8th grade tests

Governor Granholm recently announced the State of Michigan will award up to \$500 in additional funds to Michigan MERIT Award recipients graduating from high school in 2005 and 2006 who also passed the middle school MEAP exams in 7th and 8th grade.

The Governor made the announcement after learning a contractor working on behalf of the State had sent reports to parents of students who passed the tests, the first of whom will be graduating high school this June. Specifically, reports were sent to students in the 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 school years. The contractor's work for the State ended in 2002.

The Governor has proposed that students graduating high school in 2007 and beyond benefit from a New MERIT Scholarship that will offer more scholarship money to students who pursue their education after high school. The New MERIT Scholarship would guarantee students a minimum of \$4,000 in state and federal scholarships and grants if they complete two years of postsecondary education, including coursework at a four-year college or university, community college, or certification program.

Winter 2005 Tested Roster

As scheduled, the first group of Tested Rosters for the winter 2005 test cycle were posted to the MEAP secure website on March 4, 2005, and the second group was posted on March 11, 2005. For schools that are not in the first two postings of the Tested Roster, we will be posting them on March 18, 2005. This third posting was not scheduled and will include those schools that returned their winter 2005 test materials past the deadline. If your school is not in any of the three postings of the Tested Roster and you returned your winter 2005 test materials in a timely manner, please notify our office via email at meap@michigan.gov.

The Tested Roster schedule is as follows:

First posting - March 4 - March 18, 2005

Second posting - March 11 - March 24, 2005

Third posting - March 18 - March 24, 2005

The instructions for the Tested Roster can be found on the login page of the MEAP secure website at www.michigan.gov/meap-secure by clicking on the pink link *NEW Enhancement How-To Help Documents*. We strongly encourage you to print these instructions and review them to assist you with this important task. This will be your last opportunity to request corrections or to make demographic changes before the final reports are created.

MEAP Contact Information

OEAA web site: www.michigan.gov/oeaa

MEAP web site: www.michigan.gov/meap

MEAP secure database: www.michigan.gov/meap-secure

MEAP email address: meap@michigan.gov

MEAP Office local phone number: 517-373-8393

MEAP Office toll-free phone number: 877-560-8378

MEAP Office fax number: 517-335-1186